



Troops secure, control route in southern Baghdad

Story and photo by Spc. James P. Hunter
MNC-I PAO

Approximately 25 Improvised Explosive Devices detonated on Route Redwing in Southern Baghdad, resulting in the death of several U.S. servicemembers during the month of January.

To prevent IED's from taking the lives of

Coalition Forces and endangering the lives of the local populace, elements of the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team have been tasked to run security operations and route reconnaissance on Redwing.

Prior to the Soldiers of the Currahee Brigade taking over Redwing, insurgents used the route to bring supplies into Baghdad, said Spc. Derrick Marez, M2

.50-caliber Browning machine gunner, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment. Insurgents also used the route for a clear path to fire mortars at the International Zone in central Baghdad.

Along the road, many IED craters can be seen. On the west side of the road, there is a house where known insurgents occupied and planned attacks, said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Crafton, platoon sergeant, Co. D, 2nd Bn, 506th Inf. Reg.

Soldiers nabbed the insurgent, obtained the home and are using it as an observation post, OP Red or the "Dawg House," he explained.

As the coalition steps closer to eliminating these threats, U.S. Forces still need help from the Iraqi police forces, said 1st Lt. Christian Wollenburg, platoon leader, Co. D. One of their main goals is to hand over the route to the 4th Public Order Brigade, Iraqi police.

Wollenburg said he wants the Iraqis to take full responsibility for the route and control OP Red independently.

Currently, the Iraqis provide security at the check point, controlling traffic and ensuring no weapons or explosives are brought into the area, he added. They

see OP RED, page 4



Pvt. Joseph Boje, gunner, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, pulls security while dismounted on Route Redwing Monday.

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Friday



Sunny
High: 84 F
Low: 59 F

Saturday



Mostly Sunny
High: 89 F
Low: 60 F

Sunday



Partly Cloudy
High: 87 F
Low: 62 F

In today's Victory Times:

Page 2: Ugandans pull security, Chaplain's Corner

Page 3: Beat the editor, Security you can use

Page 5: Camp Victory operating hours

Ugandans take over security check points

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks
MNC-I PAO

Ugandan security specialists with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology, a contracting company on the Camp Victory Base Complex, have recently been handed over the responsibility of guarding the gates of Victory.

The Ugandan security force will protect most entry control points throughout the Victory Base Complex. They will be in charge of every aspect of inner security.

Each specialist was sent through a screening process in Uganda. At a minimum they are required to have some sort of military or special police training.



Ugandan security specialists with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology, clear the entrance of the Victory Road ECP for a military convoy Monday.

"They are all well trained and disciplined," said Keith Lenz, entry control point supervisor, EODT. "Former military training was a requirement in their contract."

They were

trained for three weeks before they were given two more weeks of on-the-job training. Now they have full responsibility of their ECP's, said Lenz.

The training included everything they needed to protect ECP's and towers. They received weapons training on the M-4 Carbine, 9mm pistol and they will receive training on the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, said Brian Skomp, Area Defense Operations Center liaison, Victory Base Complex.

Along with weapons training, they were taught personnel and vehicle search procedures, convoy ambulatory and medical

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Chaplain's Corner

A Rebellious People

I guess I must be from a different time and generation. I feel patriotic when I see the Stars and Stripes flying proud and free. I stand tall in respect when I see representatives of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard march by me. I feel a deep sense of pride, camaraderie and oneness when I see the men and women of the Coalition Forces – each coming from their home nations – working so hard, diligently, and dependably to strengthen the emerging democracy of Iraq.

Then I read the following headlines and news blurbs from the Army Times Daily News Roundup – and I am troubled.

Police to protect vandalized home of fallen soldier

Kokomo, Ind. – Police posted an around the clock security watch at the home of an Indiana soldier killed last week in Iraq after it was vandalized and his family received disturbing phone calls. The home of SGT Rickey Jones was egged Saturday, three days after Jones' family learned the 21-year-old and three other soldiers had been killed by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad. His family also received phone calls in which the caller said: "I'm glad your son is dead."

Group plans to protest soldier's funeral in Mo.

Anderson, Mo. – Members of a Kansas group...say they'll picket

the weekend funeral of a Missouri soldier, setting up the first direct challenge of a new state law. Army Private First Class Christopher L. Marion, killed last week by a roadside bomb in Iraq, will be buried Saturday in Anderson, south of Joplin in the southwest corner of Missouri.

I am troubled, because I am honored to represent my country wherever I am sent. I am honored as a Chaplain to provide religious support wherever God leads me. To me, being a service member, representing God and Country, is the best thing I can imagine. I would assume my Coalition force comrades feel the same about their commitments.

Then I read these news blurbs again and my 53-year-old memory goes back to Vietnam – and the treatment veterans received. Does this dissuade me from serving God and Country? No, what we are doing here in Iraq, helping this nation attain freedom is noble and right! Everything that is good and right comes with a price tag! Nothing good and lasting is ever free! If it were, we would not want it.

No, I just have to remember the words of Ezekiel the prophet, "The word of the Lord came to me: 'Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see, but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people!'" (Ezekiel 12:1-2)

VISIT

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VICTORY TIMES

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BEAT THE EDITOR

MARCH MADNESS

Guest picker: 7/3

Editor: 3/7



Sgt. Tom Conning
broadcast NCO/ MNC-I PAO

2006 NCAA TOURNAMENT SWEET 16 TIP-OFF Vs.



Sp. Brian J. Anderson
editor/ MNC-I PAO

Texas
UCLA
Washington
Villanova
Georgetown

(2) Texas vs. (6) West Virginia
(2) UCLA vs. (3) Gonzaga
(1) Connecticut vs. (5) Washington
(1) Villanova vs. (4) Boston College
(3) Florida vs. (7) Georgetown

West Virginia
Gonzaga
Connecticut
Boston College
Florida

After round two, the tag "Expert" was taken away from Spc. Brian J. Anderson. He is now just the editor, so essentially the competition is just between a guest picker and some guy. The editor lost all for featured matches during round two. Hopefully he can redeem himself during the Sweet 16. Saturday's guest picker is Spc. Jesse Belford, broadcaster, MNC-I PAO.

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“Students came up to me afterwards to express how moved they were after hearing from the Soldiers.”

— Philip Brodsky, ALPMA POLICY/INTEGRITY

WWW.ARMY.MIL/OTF

898th Medical Detachment (PM)

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MARCH 27-30

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OP RED

are also conducting joint patrols with the Currahee Soldiers.

Each patrol the 506th conducts, the light infantry try to incorporate the Iraqis, said Wollenburg. Their presence lets the Iraqi people know their government is taking the needed steps to securing freedom for their country.

Wollenburg said the Iraqis are steadily improving. They are all wearing the same uniforms, carry their weapons correctly, and acting and moving as a unit.

The 506th and Iraqi forces' continuing efforts to eliminate insurgency on Redwing will ensure safety for the local nationals and the Coalition forces, said Wollenburg. Their efforts will give the 506th troops the opportunity to use their combat power in another area, and the Iraqi police the opportunity to take control of the mission.

From their crowded, two-story OP, the Renegade Soldiers run their operations and conduct their missions, said Spc. Grant Courtney, infantryman, Co. D, 2nd Bn, 506th Inf. Reg.

Teams rotate in shifts, moving from static positions to force protection and finally to strike force, he explained.

Along the route, Soldiers sit in static positions, gaining a secure watch over

the entire route, Courtney said. They watch for insurgents who may have snuck onto the road and anyone who may be digging, trying to place an IED.

Their objective is to provide security for their fellow troops, the children playing in the streets or in their backyards, and for the parents who are trying to make a life for their families, he said.

Force protection provides security and cover for the Soldiers on the ground and the observation post, said Spc. Michael Sheridan, infantryman, Company B, 2nd Bn, 506th Inf. Reg. Their mission is to look for and eliminate possible threats to the OP and troops on the ground.

At OP Red also sits a strike force, or quick response force, who wait patiently to quickly respond to any attack or incoming mortars, said Marez. While waiting for such a possibility, they escort and provide security for engineers who are fixing and cleaning the damaged road.

IED's left massive craters along



A Soldier with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, pulls security outside a house in Baghdad Monday.

Redwing, and still buried beneath are explosives waiting for an insurgent to sneak through, hook up a wire and detonate it, he said.

Being on strike force also gives the troops an opportunity to interact with the local nationals.

Marez feels many of the locals agree and approve of the U.S. presence in their area. If the 506th is securing the area and keeping bombs and explosives off the road, then the kids have nothing to fear when they're out playing or on their way to school.

The Soldiers are trying to build a relationship with the local nationals, in hopes the civilians can help lead to the detention of anti-coalition forces. The troops ask the Iraqis about recent significant actions in the area, said Wollenburg. Some seem to cooperate and give information. Others though, fear if they release any information their lives will be at risk if it leads back to them.

Total cooperation is needed to keep both American forces and local nationals' lives safe, he said.

The faster troops locate and eliminate terrorists activities, the quicker U.S. forces can leave the area and open the road to the locals for freedom of travel, explained Wollenburg.

UGANDAN

evacuation procedures, detainee procedures and rules of force, added Skomp.

"We have come to perform a service and provide security, and we are good at what we do," said Lt. Anthony Arap'Ndiwa, Ugandan security specialist. "It is our responsibility to take control of this ECP in all respects."

The duty of guarding the ECP's is almost a scientific process, added Arap'Ndiwa. Statistics are taken on almost everything from number of cars to the different colors of cars that pass through the gates. This type of information is gathered to make abnormalities easier to spot.

"If anything is out of the ordinary, we have to be able to spot it and conduct the proper actions to quell the situation," said Arap'Ndiwa.

According to the supervisors and Soldiers who have helped train the Ugandans, their professionalism and ability to learn are beyond reproach. They are well prepared to do their job.

"The Ugandans are extremely friendly and well educated; working with them has been a good experience," said Spc. Martin Ellis, security personnel, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery. "They learn fast and are just as proficient as we are."

According to Ellis, they are very "by the book."

"They follow the rules to a 'T' and make sure everyone else



Ugandan security specialists clear the entrance of an ECP for a military convoy Monday.

does to," said Ellis. "They show lenience to no one, no matter what their rank is."

The standards, rules and procedures that the American military hold and follow are what impress the Ugandans the most, said Arap'Ndiwa.

"In my country, if someone of my rank tried to stop a lieutenant colonel and ask for his identification, he would be reprimanded," said Arap'Ndiwa. "Here we can do our job and protect the complex the way we are supposed to."

The Ugandans are not being used as reinforcements for security details already posted. They are replacements that will free up Soldiers to take care of other missions such as patrols, said Capt. Jeffrey Munn, commander, A Battery, 1/320 FA.

"With the Ugandans taking over ECP's, they have freed up two platoons for me to use," said Munn. "The Ugandans have taken over static security points which will allow us to be more flexible in our security measures and also allows us to flex our security farther."

The Ugandans will be here as long as the contract holds out. They could be leaving as early as August, but they could also be here for 18 months, said Skomp.

"They (Ugandans) are more than capable to complete this mission," said Munn. "I have more troops to work with and we still have a top notch security force."

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
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Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

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Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

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Mental Health Clinic:

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Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

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Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

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joseph.mahoney@iraq.centcom.mil

TOURNAMENT RULES: basic rules are included w/ this email



TIME: 8 p.m. PLACE: MWR Bldg. 124

TOURNAMENT DATES:

March 27

April 10 and 24

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Roman Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Protestant Service noon
Latter Day Saints Service 2 p.m.
Episcopal/Lutheran Service 4 p.m.
Contemporary Protestant Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist Service 11 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Monday - Friday

Roman Catholic Service 4 p.m.

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Saturday:

Orthodox:

Orthodox Vespers 5 p.m.
Orthodox Confession 5:30 p.m.
Orthodox Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Orthodox Divine Liturgy 9 p.m.

Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

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